

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 11, 18 and 23 are amended. Claims 24-30 are new. Claims 7-10, 17 and 20-22 were previously indicated as being allowable.

Claims 1-6, 11-16, 18, 19 and 23 stand rejected.

2. Rejection of claims 1-6, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nielsen.

Claims 1, 11, 18 and 23 are amended to indicate that the feedback takes place at a higher rate than the digital input signal. Support for this feature can be found in the specification, at for example, page 5, lines 16-21 and page 6, lines 6-13.

This is not disclosed or suggested by Nielsen. Thus, claims 1-6, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23 should now be allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$1426 is enclosed for the RCE fee, the third month of a three-month extension of time (months 1 and 2 previously paid for) and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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30 April 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Signature: Supanne Jolley
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